



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/072,927	02/12/2002	Ho-Lung Lu	MR2349-791	3756
4586	7590	01/25/2005	EXAMINER	
ROSENBERG, KLEIN & LEE 3458 ELLICOTT CENTER DRIVE-SUITE 101 ELLICOTT CITY, MD 21043			GEREZGIHER, YEMANE M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2144	

DATE MAILED: 01/25/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/072,927

Applicant(s)

LU ET AL.

Examiner

Yemane M Gerezgiher

Art Unit

2144

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 February 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 1 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 February 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This application has been examined. Claims 1-9 are pending.

Claim Objections

2. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities:

The inventive entity recite, "the content" Claim 1, Claim Line 3, which lack antecedent basis. No "content" has been previously defined in the claim.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

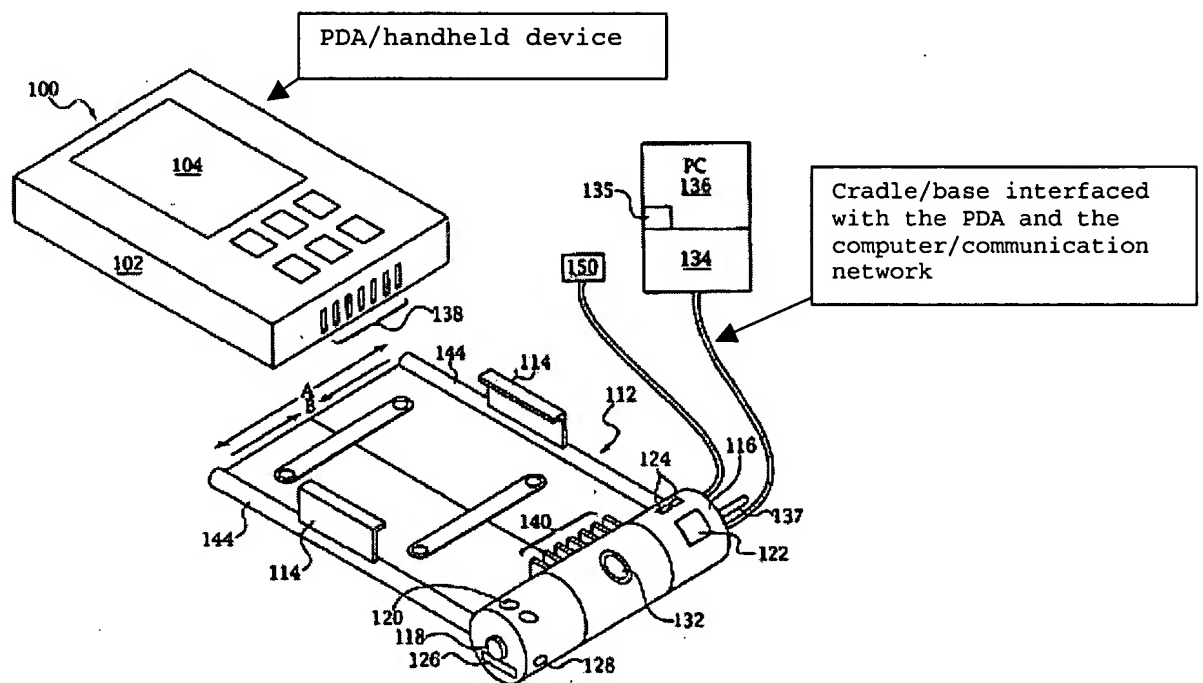
(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-3 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Narayanaswami (U.S. Patent Number 6,657,654) hereinafter referred to as Narayanaswami.

As per claim 1, Narayanaswami disclosed a base/cradle also known as a dock for a handheld device (PDA) where the cradle had

Art Unit: 2144

a means for connection with a computer and the communication network for transmitting and receiving images. See ABSTRACT, Column 2 Lines 23-65. Narayanaswami taught a cradle comprising a casing having with a control circuit allowing the communication and exchange of information objects between the PDA and the cradle having therein the control circuit. See Figures 1 and 2 disclosed below:



Narayanaswami disclosed a cradle having a "receiving groove" for receiving handheld computing devices of different sizes (Claim 2). See Figure 2, Column 3, Lines 10-20 and Column 2, Lines 49-51). Narayanaswami taught the cradle comprising a memory for storing images and other information objects thereon.

Art Unit: 2144

See Figure 4 and Column 5, Lines 22-62. As per claim 3, "wherein said transmission unit can be an Ethernet interface, a modem interface, a USB interface, an RS-232 interface, an IrDA transmission interface, or an RF transmission interface". These communications interfaces are commonly known and widely implemented in the computer-networking environment. To mention a few, Narayanaswami disclosed digital interface interfacing the PDA and the communication network or a PC with the cradle using a fast USB (Universal Serial Bus) or the use of the IEEE-1394 also known as a "Firewire", wireless communication techniques using a radio frequency signals and using infrared light. See Figures 2-4 and Column 4, Lines 33-53.

Narayanaswami substantially disclosed the invention as claimed. However, Narayanaswami was silent about the cradle/base having e-mail function and a discrimination unit for discriminating and classifying e-mail messages.

An artisan working with invention of Narayanaswami dealing with the use of a cradle having a control circuit and a memory in expanding the limited memory and other functionality of devices such as a PDA to function as a camera to scan digital pictures to perform video conferencing among other functionalities by making use of a cradle would have been optimistic that expanding

Art Unit: 2144

functionality of the PDA by making use of a cradle/base would motivate the artisan that such an invention would also benefit in making use of e-mail function eliminating the problem of limited memory resource of the PDA. Narayanaswami addressed the common problem regarding the use of devices such as PDA as follows:

As devices, such as handheld PC's, are commercially introduced capabilities are increased for individuals on the road or otherwise working away from a conventional office. One of the drawbacks of current versions of handheld PC's is that the handheld PC's have limited memory, usually 1-2 MB, and the connection speed, while adequate for calendar and memo synchronization, falls short for several applications. Another drawback is that often users would like to have the capabilities generally provided by a modem, a digital scanner, a digital camera, videophone, etc., with their PDA, thus increasing the bulk they need to carry. To provide these capabilities, the individual devices must be purchased and be capable of interfacing with each other. The overall cost also increases because the user pays for duplication, e.g., two devices with displays. See Column 2, Lines 1-15.

Narayanaswami disclosed a cradle/base having video functionality in overcoming the problem addressed above. As it is

Art Unit: 2144

known in the art, video is one of many conferencing formats including e-mail. Having said that an artisan working with the invention of Narayanaswami would have been motivated to include the function of e-mail and have modified the teachings of Narayanaswami related to cradle/base of a handheld device having video and scan functionality. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Narayanaswami to include e-mail function because e-mail requires less transmission rate (bandwidth) reducing the cost of communication resource.

5. Claims 6-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Narayanaswami (U.S. Patent Number 6,657,654) in view of Watanabe et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,763,458) hereinafter referred to a Watanabe.

With respect to the rejection applied above, Narayanaswami substantially disclosed the invention as claimed. However, Narayanaswami was silent about the details of storing the e-mail content by creating a mail index for storing index record and appended file format area for storing the appended files.

As evidenced by the teachings of Watanabe, mail index storing index record and to create or append by creating a mail

Art Unit: 2144

appended format and storing appended files was known in the art at the time the invention was made. See Figure 13 Step 626 & 628, Column 29, Line 56 through Column 30, Lines 9. It is a common knowledge that mail data stored in a memory to be in text or HTML format and to contain sender's data, receiver's data, theme and the mail content (claim 6 and 7). Further, Watanabe taught mail index file for storing index record in the email and mail's appended file format area for storing appended files.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to take the teachings of Watanabe related to mail index storing index record and creating an append format and storing appended files and have modified the already modified teachings of Narayanaswami related to cradle/base of a handheld device having e-mail function in order to facilitate the usability of handheld device's e-mail access capability and to download the mail contents to the computing device in a manner where a record in a mail index storage corresponds to an appended mail content in the mail content storage. See Column 5, Lines 29-49.

6. Claims 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Narayanaswami (U.S. Patent Number 6,657,654) as

Art Unit: 2144

applied to claim 1 above and further in view of Horvitz et al.

(U.S. Patent Number 6,161,130) hereinafter referred to as

Horvitz.

Narayanaswami substantially disclosed the invention as claimed. However, Narayanaswami did not teach a discrimination unit for discriminating and classifying e-mail messages having therein a mail buffer for temporarily storing mail messages.

One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to look for teachings that may have allowed filtering or discriminating e-mail messages in order properly classify messages according to their importance. In these arts, Horvitz disclosed receiving e-mail messages at a mail buffer and using the discrimination unit for classifying incoming e-mail messages and storing the messages accordingly. See ABSTRACT, Figure 2, Column 4, Lines 40-53 and Column 14, Lines 6-42. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to take the teachings of Horvitz related to discriminating/filtering e-mail messages and have modified the already modified teaching of Narayanaswami in order to "accurately and automatically detect and classify spam in an incoming stream of e-mail messages and provide a prediction as to its confidence in its classification." See Column 4, Lines 22-24.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to Applicant's disclosure.

- a. Dickie (US 6798647 B2) entitled: "Portable computer with integrated PDA I/O docking cradle"
- b. Jaggers et al. (US 20020119800 A1) entitled: "Docking station for wireless communication device"
- c. Rahn et al. (US 20020103008 A1) entitled: "Cordless communication between PDA and host computer using cradle"
- d. Pardo (US 6266539 B1) entitled: "Telephone docking station for personal digital assistant"
- e. Wakui (JP 2000244555 A) entitled: "Electronic mail system forwards E-mail corresponding to selected index information, from mail storage server, to portable communication terminal"
- f. Paul (US 5999932 A) entitled: "System and method for filtering unsolicited electronic mail messages using data matching and heuristic processing"

Art Unit: 2144

g. ARAI et al. (JP 10283282 A) entitled: "Device and method for electronic mail transmission and reception and electronic mail generation method"

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communication from the examiner should be directed to Yemane Gerezgiher whose telephone number is (571) 272-3927. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday- Friday from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful. The examiner's supervisor, William Cuchlinski, can be reached at (571) 272-3925.

Yemane M. Gerezgiher

AU: 2144

MARC D. THOMPSON
MARC THOMPSON
PRIMARY EXAMINER
571 272 3932